

Sycuan to Host Roundtable on Native-American Legal Issues

The third Roundtable on Native-American Legal Issues will be held August 27–28 on the reservation of the Sycuan Band of Mission Indians in El Cajon. The roundtable is sponsored by the Racial and Ethnic Fairness Subcommittee of the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

The subcommittee sponsored the first informal roundtable in September 1996, followed by the Conference on Native-American Legal Issues in April 1998.

The August conference, a follow-up to last year's conference, will bring together Native-American and non-Native-American resource people statewide to continue the subcommittee's study of how best the state courts can enhance Native-American communities' access to the courts, as well as work collaboratively with developing tribal courts in the state. More than 50 participants are expected, including representatives of 27 Southern California tribes besides the Sycuan.

Participants will discuss the present status of Native Americans in California, explore issues and concerns in establishing tribal courts, the relationship between the California courts and Native Americans and specifically the Indian Child Welfare Act, and examine the factors that affect Native Americans' fair access to the state courts.

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